

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor seven special events during May 2017

(DOVER, Del.—April 20, 2017)—The [five museums of the State of Delaware](#) will be sponsoring seven special events during the month of May 2017. A full schedule is included below. Except where noted, all programs are free and open to the public.



Zwaanendael Museum
historical interpreter
Andrew Lyter portraying a
World-War-I-era British
sailor. Lyter will be
performing at the “Sailor’s
Life for Me” celebration on
May 27 and 28, 2017.

Administered by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the five museums—the John Dickinson

Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State’s contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware’s unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park. Go to the following for a comprehensive, long-term [calendar of events](#) sponsored by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special events, May 2017

Friday–Sunday, May 5–7, 2017

[Dover Days Festival](#). Celebration of Delaware history featuring historical re-enactments, parade, maypole dancing, walking tours, pet parade, arts and crafts, music and more. Events are primarily based in downtown Dover locations including the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and [The Old State House](#). 302-734-4888.

Saturday, May 6, 2017

“Some Like Classical.” Guided tours examine some of Victor Records’ earliest recordings of classical music played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. Part of the [Dover Days Festival](#). [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Dover Days at the John Dickinson Plantation. Activities include tours and hearth cooking utilizing 18th-century recipes. Part of the [Dover Days Festival](#). [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Visitors will enjoy hearth-cooking demonstrations as part of “Dover Days at the John Dickinson Plantation” on May 6, 2017.

Saturday, May 6, 2017

“William Penn vs Lord Baltimore: Let’s Get Ready to Rumble.”

Historical-theater production explores William Penn’s conflict with Lord Baltimore over ownership of the Delmarva Peninsula. Part of the [Dover Days Festival](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Performance at 1 p.m. Museum open for tours 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, May 13, 2017

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, May 20, 2017

[A Day in Old New Castle](#). The oldest house and garden tour in the nation includes programs at the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the New Castle Green. Downtown New Castle. Admission free at the New Castle Court House Museum. Admission charge at other venues. 302-322-5774.

Saturday, May 27, 2017

[“A Sailor’s Life for Me”–Zwaanendael Museum’s 6th Annual Maritime Celebration](#). Maritime-themed activities including

living-history re-enactors, encampments, musket drills, displays, demonstrations, tours of [Lightship Overfalls](#) and more. Downtown Lewes locations including the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Free admission except for tours of the Lightship Overfalls. 302-645-1148.

Sunday, May 28, 2017

[“A Sailor’s Life for Me”–Zwaanendael Museum’s 6th Annual Maritime Celebration](#). Activities in downtown Lewes include tours of the remaining section of HMB DeBraak at 9 and 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. beginning at the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway. Reservations required. Outdoor activities at the Zwaanendael Museum from 1–3 p.m. Wreath-laying ceremonies honoring the crew of DeBraak beginning at 3 p.m. at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, and living-history re-enactors at Canal Front Park from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Monday, May 29, 2017

Memorial Day. All museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Exhibits and displays, May 2017

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays:

Thru August 2017

[“World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis.”](#) Designed by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the exhibit features photographs taken by Dover, Del. native William D. Willis during World War II. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [Middletown Historical Society](#), 216 N. Broad St., Middletown. Fri., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

First Sat. of each month, 9 a.m.–Noon. Third Wed. of each month, Noon–4 p.m. Other times by appointment. Free admission but call 302-378-7466 before planning a visit.

Thru Dec. 31, 2017

“Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets in Paris 1913-1914.” Exhibit featuring paintings and painting materials used by the noted Delaware artists Orville Houghton Peets and Ethel Canby Peets. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

“Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I.” Online exhibit revolves around 27 World War I posters from the collections of the State of Delaware.



“U.S. Marines–Active Duty on Land and Sea.” Poster by Sidney H. Reisenberg, 1917. Part of the online exhibit, “Drawing America to Victory:

The Persuasive Power
of the Arts in World
War I."

Ongoing

["Discovering Delaware's Maritime Past."](#) Display explores the DeBraak, a shipwrecked 18th-century British warship including a photo of the hull recovery, reproductions of items aboard ship, and a model of the vessel. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

["Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad."](#) Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

["Five Stories."](#) Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation](#) Welcome Center, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

["The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016."](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware's first state capitol building was restored to its original appearance in 1976. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover.

Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m.
302-744-5054.

Ongoing

"A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World."

Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty's Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

Sculpture by Charles Parks. Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

"Simple Machines." Exhibit demonstrating the six "simple machines"—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#) Welcome Center, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

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